

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-6, 9, 10 and 13-17 are pending in this application. Claims 2, 3, 7, 8, 11, 12 and 18-23 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicant respectfully requests favorable reconsideration in view of the remarks presented herein below.

In paragraph 2 of the Office Action ("Action"), the Examiner rejects claims 3, 18, and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,513,386 to Glazer ("Glazer") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,167,037 to Higuchi et al. ("Higuchi"). Claims 3, 18 and 22 have been canceled, rendering this rejection moot.

In paragraph 3 of the Action, the Examiner rejects claims 11, 12, and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,905,176 to Schulz ("Schulz") in view of Higuchi. Claims 11, 12, and 23 have been canceled, rendering this rejection moot.

In paragraph 4 of the Action, the Examiner rejects claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Glazer in view of Higuchi, further in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,429,310 to Zscheile, JR et al. ("Zscheile"). Claim 19 has been canceled, rendering this rejection moot.

In paragraph 5 of the Action, the Examiner rejects claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Schulz in view of Higuchi, further in view of Glazer. Claim 20 has been canceled, rendering this rejection moot.

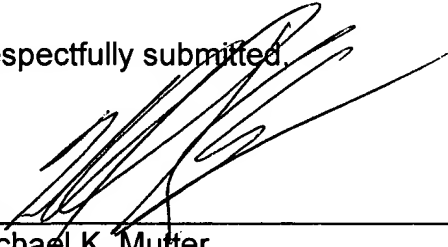
In paragraph 6 of the Action, the Examiner rejects claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Schulz in view of Higuchi, further in view of Zscheile. Claim 21 has been canceled, rendering this rejection moot.

Since all of the claims remaining in this application have been indicated in the outstanding Office Action as being allowed, the application is in condition for allowance. Notice of same is earnestly solicited. Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Penny Caudle (Reg. No. 46,607) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,



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